Lesson Plan 1

Diana Sturm Belden Kindergarten

Dot by Patricia Intriago

Introduction to the story: Pass out a sheet of construction paper and colored bingo dobbers to each child at their tables. Instruct the class to put their names on the paper, then spend five minutes making dots on their paper. Stop, put the dobbers down, and give each child a turn to show their work and express what they see or feel about their picture.

Have the children come to the carpet and discuss how we all shared our ideas about our “Dot” pictures, then hold up the book, and ask what this story is about, and how it relates to the introductory activity.

Read the story to the class with fluency and expression. Review the story by introducing “antonyms” as opposites, then read the story again with the class repeating the opposites, ex. Teacher says, “Heavy dot,” Students repeat, “Light dot.” Continue until the story ends and all opposites have been repeated.

At the chart write a sentence starter: My favorite dots in the story were\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Create a word bank by asking the students what all the dots were in the story and record these on the chart. The children will choose the two dots that were their favorite and return to their tables with a sheet of writing paper to write a sentence similar to our sentence starter. The writing paper we use also has a space for an illustration, and the children will illustrate the “dots” they chose to write about.

This lesson combines an art lesson, antonym activity, and a writing activity all with creativity and active engagement with the students.

Lesson Plan 2

Diana Sturm Belden Elementary

Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Rinker and Lichtenheld

Introduction: Display a variety of toy construction vehicles, discuss what they are, what they are used for, and their names with the students. Review the term, “transportation,” as it has been introduced before in several other stories. Discuss the term, “construction site,” and how these trucks are related to the construction of buildings. Display the book, discuss the title, and the cover and how it relates to the construction vehicles we have on display.

Read the story to the children with fluency and expression the first time. Reread the story and discuss the exciting illustrations that seem to bring the story alive. Emphasize the rhymes that are obvious on every page of the story. Have the children whisper the catchy phrase, “Shh…goodnight,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,goodnight.” Each time the children will repeat the truck that was read about on the page. They will love doing this and will know what to say, as the teacher has modeled how to say the phrase.

Ask the names of all the trucks in the story and make a word bank for the children to use to illustrate and write a few sentences about their favorite truck. Have the students return to their tables with a sheet of our lined writing paper with the space for an illustration to complete the assignment.

Have a variety of different types of transportation vehicles for the children to look at and read as they complete their writing assignment.

Lesson 3

Diana Sturm Belden Elementary

These Hands by M.H. Mason

Introduction: We will design our own tree of friendship by having the children trace their hands on green construction paper and have them each glue their hands to a tree trunk that was previously made with construction paper and stapled to a bulletin board in the room. The title of our bulletin board will be “These Hands” and the children will understand why after I read the story. This would be a wonderful book to read during Black History Month.

Display the book to the students and discuss the title and the characters on the cover. Proceed to read the story with fluency and expression. This is a touching story with illustrations that clearly express what trials and tribulations the African American workers endured during the 1950s and1960s. Reread the story again and question the children to be sure they understand how what jobs people could do was based on their skin color until the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Relate the story to our bulletin board and how life has changed for all of us. Discuss how important it is that all of our hands our joined together in friendship on our tree, and how we are equal and have the same opportunities in life. Stress that this story is non fiction and that it is a true story about a man named Joe Barnett.

As a follow up extension activity, having the class mix our own bread dough, taking turns mixing and touching the bread dough will help the children understand the story as we work together. After I bake the bread and we eat together I believe the children will better understand the meaning of this touching story.